

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 284

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) and designation of a type species for that genus, in harmony with accustomed nomenclatorial usage.



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 284

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*).

President : (Vacant).

Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*).

Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*).

B. The Members of the Commission

(arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology).

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., U.S.A.*) (28th March 1944).

Professor Harold B. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*) (1st January 1947).

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Békéscsaba, Hungary*) (1st January 1947).

Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N. Y., U.S.A.*) (1st January 1947).

Professor H. BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (1st January 1947).

Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*Eva Peron, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina*) (27th July 1948)

Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948)

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948)

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

OPINION 284

VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "APHIDIUS" NEES, 1818 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA) AND DESIGNA- TION OF A TYPE SPECIES FOR THAT GENUS IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED NOMEN- CLATORIAL USAGE

RULING : (1) Under the Plenary Powers (a) the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy : (i) the generic name *Incubus* Schrank, 1802 ; (ii) the specific name *picipes* Nees, 1811 (as published in the combination *Bracon picipes* ; and (b) the nominal species *Aphidius avenae* Haliday, 1834, is hereby designated as the type species of the genus *Aphidius* Nees, 1818 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera).

(2) The generic name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818 (gender : masculine), with the type species designated, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) (b) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 709.

(3) The generic name *Incubus* Schrank, 1802, as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) (a) (i) above, is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 97.

(4) The specific name *avenae* Haliday, 1834, as published in the combination *Aphidius avenae*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 115.

(5) The specific name *picipes* Nees, 1811, as published in the combination *Bracon picipes* and as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) (a) (ii) above, is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 67.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 17th September 1943, Mr. W. D. Hincks (*then of Leeds and now of Manchester University, England*) addressed a tentative enquiry to the Secretary to the Commission on the subject of the generic name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera). After an exchange of correspondence with the Secretary, Mr. Hincks on 23rd July 1944 submitted the following application in regard to the above name to the Commission for decision :—

Proposed validation of “*Aphidius*” Nees, 1818 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) under the Plenary Powers

By W. D. HINCKS

(*Department of Zoology, University Museum, Manchester, England*)

The well-known genus *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, was established in *Nova Acta Acad. Caes. Leop. Carol.* 9 : 302, for two species, namely *Bracon picipes* Nees, 1811, *Mag. Ges. Nat. Fr.*, Berlin 5 (1) : 28, and *Bracon exoletus* Nees, 1811, *ibid.* 5 (1) : 30.

Ichneumon aphidum Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 568, was selected as the type species by Curtis, 1831 (*Brit. Ent.* 8 : 383) but this selection is invalid since that species was not originally included in the genus by Nees. Foerster's selection (1862, *Verh. naturh. Ver. preuss. Rheinl.* 19 : 248) of *Aphidius rosae* Haliday, 1833 (*Ent. Mag.* 1 : 261) as the type species is untenable for the same reason.

Viereck, 1914 (*Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 83 : 14) stated that the type species of *Aphidius* Nees was *Bracon picipes* Nees, 1811, but as this is a *species inquirenda*, he preferred to follow Foerster's interpretation.

In 1942, Essig published a work under the title of “College Entomology” (New York, The Macmillan Company), in which he used (: 644) the family name INCUBIDAE for APHIDIIDAE and (: 645) sank *Aphidius* Nees as a synonym of *Incubus* Schrank, 1802.

Incubus Schrank, 1802, was established in *Fauna boica* 2 : 315, for *Ichneumon aphidum* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 568, and is monotypical. This genus is identical with *Aphidius* Nees but the name *Incubus* Schrank has never previously been used. The replacement of *Aphidius* Nees by the obsolete name *Incubus* Schrank

and the alteration of the family name from APHIDIIDAE to INCUBIDAE would clearly cause more confusion than uniformity. This seems to me therefore a case where the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature could properly exercise their Plenary Powers to prevent confusion from arising in the nomenclature of this group.

The identity of neither of the two species originally included by Nees in the genus *Aphidius* Nees is altogether free from doubt, though personally I consider that *Bracon picipes* Nees can properly be identified with *Aphidius avenae* Haliday, 1834, *Ent. Mag.* 2 (1) : 99. This is the view taken by the former leading authority, Marshall (1896, in André, *Spec. Hymen. Eur.* 5 (1) : 574), though it is true that on that occasion Marshall overlooked the prior description (1811) of Nees, as will be noted from the following quotation: "Le synonyme *picipes* Nees, portant la même date que le nom spécifique imposé par Haliday, la priorité reste dans le doute; j'ai donc préféré l'auteur de la meilleure description". The first author to introduce the doubt reflected by Viereck, as mentioned above, was the cataloguer Dalla Torre, 1898, *Cat. Hymenopt.* 4 : 5.

If the rules are to be suspended for the purpose of validating the name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, it is very desirable that at the same time the International Commission should designate as the type species of this genus a species the identity of which is free from doubt, for, in the case of a group of species of considerable economic importance such as that now under consideration, it is important to secure that there shall be no opportunity for doubt by reason of the nomenclature employed. The most appropriate type species for the genus *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, appear to me to be *Aphidius avenae* Haliday, 1834, (a) because the type specimen of this species is in the British Museum (Natural History) and therefore readily available for consultation and (b) because that species (as already stated) is almost certainly identical with *Bracon picipes* Nees, 1811, the species which, under the Code, is the type species of the genus *Aphidius* Nees.

The difficulties in the present case would, therefore, be completely solved if the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting under their Plenary Powers, were to (i) suppress the name *Incubus* Schrank, 1802, (ii) validate *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, (iii) designate *Aphidius avenae* Haliday, 1834, as the type species of *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, (iv) place the name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818 (gender masculine), and with the above species as its type species, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, (v) place the trivial name *avenae* Haliday, 1834, as published in the binominal combination *Aphidius avenae*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, and (vi) place the generic name *Incubus* Schrank, 1802, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application* : On receipt of Mr. Hincks' preliminary enquiry in 1943, the present case was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 149.

3. *Support by Dr. O. E. Essig (University of California, Division of Entomology and Parasitology, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.)* : During the correspondence with Mr. Hincks in the period 1943—1944, the Secretary consulted Dr. E. O. Essig (*University of California, Division of Entomology and Parasitology, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*), considering it desirable to appraise him at the earliest possible moment of the likelihood of an application being submitted in the present case, having regard to the fact that it was Dr. Essig who in his *College Entomology* published in 1942 was the first to draw attention to the fact that the generic name *Incubus* Schrank, 1802, had priority over the well-known generic name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818. On 20th October 1943 Dr. Essig replied as follows, giving his support for the proposed validation of the name *Aphidius* Nees under the Plenary Powers :—

On the proposed validation of “*Aphidius*” Nees, 1818 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) under the Plenary Powers

By E. O. ESSIG

(*Division of Entomology and Parasitology, University of California, Berkeley, California*)

I very greatly appreciate your kind letter of 22nd September, in which you indicate that application has been made for the suspension of the Rules for the purpose of suppressing the name *Incubus* Schrank and for validating *Aphidius* Nees.

I heartily recommend this procedure. I was very hesitant to make the radical changes which appear in “*College Entomology*”, but I reasoned that only by so doing can these matters be permanently straightened out.

4. *Publication of the present application* : Mr. Hincks' application and Dr. Essig's note of support were sent to the printer in October 1944, but owing to difficulties arising from paper

rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, no progress had been made in this case by the time that in 1946 circumstances made it necessary for the International Commission to change its printers. In the period immediately following, it was necessary to devote the whole of the resources of the Commission, first, to preparations for the Session of the Commission to be held in Paris in 1948, and afterwards, to the preparation and publication of the Official Records of the Paris Session. It was not until the autumn of 1950 that it was possible to resume preparations for the publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* of applications relating to individual nomenclatorial cases submitted to the International Commission for decision. The present case was included in the first instalment of applications sent to the new printers in September 1950 for publication in volume 2 of the *Bulletin*. Mr. Hincks' application and Dr. Essig's comments on it were published on 20th April 1951 (Hincks, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** : 18—19 ; Essig, 1951, *ibid.* **2** : 20).

5. *Issue of Public Notices* : Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), public notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 20th April 1951 both in Part 1 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which the present application was published) and also to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition Public Notice was given to a number of entomological serial publications in Europe and America. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

6. *Support received from Dr. C. F. W. Muesebeck* (United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) : On 13th November 1951, Dr. C. F. W. Muesebeck (Officer in Charge, Division of Insect Identification, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) addressed to the Commission the following letter

supporting the action proposed in this case (1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 197) :—

I am writing concerning the Commission's reference Z.N.(S.) 149 (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 18—19).

As a worker in the BRACONIDAE with interests also in the applied field I wish to support thoroughly the proposal for conserving *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, for the group of aphid parasites to which this name has consistently been applied for well over a century. It would be unfortunate, especially in view of the large volume of literature that deals with this group of insects, to be compelled to substitute *Incubus* Schrank for *Aphidius* at this late date.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. On 7th April 1952 a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)1) was issued, in which Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal "relating to the name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, as specified in the last paragraph on page 19 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*".

8. *The prescribed Voting Period*: As the foregoing Voting Paper related to the matter not previously considered by the International Commission, the prescribed Voting Period was one of three calendar months. Accordingly, the Voting Period closed on 7th July 1952.

9. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)1*: The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)1 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)* :

Calman ; Hering ; do Amaral ; Dymond ; Riley ;
 Cabrera ; Stoll ; Esaki ; Hankó ; Pearson ; Bonnet ;
 Mertens ; Lemche ; Vokes ; Bradley ; Boschma ;
 Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *Voting Paper V.P.(52)1 was not returned by the following one (1) Commissioner* :

Jaczewski.

10. *A Supplementary Point raised by Commissioner J. Chester Bradley* : In returning his affirmative vote on the present case, Commissioner J. Chester Bradley submitted the following memorandum in which he expressed the view that an unquestioned status for the specific name *avenae* Haliday, 1834, as published in the combination *Aphidius avenae*, could not be secured, so long as the *nomen dubium picipes* Nees, 1811, as published in the combination *Bracon picipes*, remained an available name :—

While I strongly support the purport of the application, and vote yes, I feel that no case of this sort should be left with the status of some of the involved names undetermined.

If the Commission places the trivial name *avenae* Hal. 1834 on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :

(a) Does that action suppress the trivial name *picipes* Nees as used in the combination *Bracon picipes* Nees, 1811 ? or

(b) Does that action give precedence to the specific name *avenae* Haliday over *picipes* Nees for authors who consider them identical species ? or

(c) Is the name *avenae* Hal. to be sunk as a junior subjective synonym of *picipes* Nees by those authors who so consider them ?

(d) Is any author who does not look upon *picipes* Nees and *avenae* Hal. as synonymous at liberty to use *picipes* in some other sense, or sink it as a *species inquirenda* ?

If the answer to (a) is "yes", then *picipes* Nees should be placed on the *List of Rejected Names*.

Or equally, if the answer to (b) is "yes", then *picipes* should be placed on the *List of Rejected Names*.

If the answer to (c) is "yes", then *picipes* Nees should also be added to the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

The names to be included on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* should include “. . . (iii) the name of the type species of any genus . . . save where such a name is not, *either objectively or subjectively*, the oldest available name for the species in question, in which case there shall be added to the *Official List* . . . the oldest available name for the taxonomic species concerned”.

11. Proposal submitted for meeting the point raised by Commissioner Chester Bradley: On 31st December 1952 Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, prepared for the consideration of the Commission the following memorandum dealing with the point raised by Commissioner Chester Bradley, when returning his copy of Voting Paper V.P.(52)1 (see paragraph 10 above) and containing a proposal for meeting the point so raised :—

Reference V.P.(52)1 (“Aphidius”) (see “Bulletin” 2 : 18—19)

The proposal in this case has been unanimously adopted by all the members of the Commission (with the exception of Professor Jaczewski who has not voted on any of the cases submitted this year and is presumably inaccessible), but Professor Chester Bradley has pointed out that it would be undesirable to designate *Aphidius avenae* Haliday, 1834 as the type species of *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, while leaving unsettled the status of the name *Bracon picipes* Nees, 1811. As will be appreciated, the point here is (1) that the trivial name *picipes* Nees has priority over *avenae* Haliday, (2) that some authors have (as stated in the application) identified with one another the species to which these trivial names are respectively applicable, and therefore (3) that it is necessary in the decision now to be taken to make provision for the situation which would arise if, after *A. avenae* Haliday had been designated as the type species of the genus *Aphidius*, and the trivial name *avenae* had been placed on the *Official List*, some authors were to bring forward the older trivial name *picipes* Nees in competition with the name *avenae* Haliday, so established.

2. The foregoing is a valid point and I regret that I overlooked it at the time when the present case was under discussion between the applicant and myself. I therefore agree with Professor Bradley that this matter should be placed beyond possibility of doubt before a decision is promulgated in this case.

3. The object of the present application was (a) to validate the generic name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, by the suppression of the older (but unused) name *Incubus* Schrank, 1802, (b) to secure that the type species of this genus should be *Aphidius avenae* Haliday, 1834, and (c) to ensure that the trivial name *avenae* Haliday should become the valid name for the type species of this genus. As drafted, the application secured objects (a) and (b), but not object (c). In order to secure the

last-named object, the *nomen dubium* represented by the trivial name *picipes* Nees, 1811, as published in the combination *Bracon picipes*, will need to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, and, when so suppressed, placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

12. *Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(53)6, dealing with a Supplementary Proposal*: On 2nd January 1953 Mr. Hemming submitted to the Commission the memorandum reproduced in paragraph 11 of the present *Opinion* and at the same time issued Voting Paper V.P.(53)6, calling for a vote on the proposal outlined in that memorandum. The additional matter included in that proposal was that the Plenary Powers should be used for the purpose of suppressing the *nomen dubium picipes* Nees, 1811, as published in the combination *Bracon picipes*, and that that name, so suppressed, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*. For the sake of clarity, Mr. Hemming submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper the draft of a revised Ruling including both the matters already approved by the Commission (paragraph 9 above) and also the supplementary proposal referred to above. It was on this revised draft Ruling that the Commission was asked to vote.

13. *The Prescribed Voting Period*: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 2nd April 1953.

14. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(53)6*: The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(53)6 at the close of the Prescribed Voting Period was as follows¹ :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been received from the following fifteen (15) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)* :

Lemche ; Hering ; Bradley ; Dymond ; Esaki ;
Vokes ; Bonnet ; Riley ; Jaczewski ; do Amaral ;
Hankó ; Stoll ; Cabrera ; Hemming ; Boschma ;

¹ The composition of the Commission at the time of the issue of Voting Paper V.P.(53)6 was the same as it had been at the time of the issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)1 (paragraph 9 above), except that during the interval the Commission had suffered the loss of Dr. W. T. Calman by death.

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers were not received from the following two (2) Commissioners* :

Mertens ; Pearson.

15. *Declaration of Result of Vote* : On 7th April 1953, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(53)6, signed a certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 14 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

16. On 25th February 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were identical with those of the draft Ruling submitted in Voting Paper V.P.(53)6 (paragraph 12 above) and approved by the Commission in the vote on that Voting Paper (paragraph 14 above).

17. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Aphidius Nees, 1818, *Nova Acta Acad. Caes. Leop. Carol.* 9 : 302
avenae, *Aphidius*, Haliday, 1834, *Ent. Mag.* 2 (1) : 99
Incubus Schrank, 1802, *Faun. boic.* 2 : 315
picipes, *Bracon*, Nees, 1811, *Mag. Ges. Natur-Freund.* 5 (1) : 28

18. The gender of the generic name *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, is masculine.

19. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved

for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

20. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

21. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Eighty-Four (284)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this First day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

